第6幕 ファンファーレ
SO MADAME LUCILLE AND THE OTHERS FINALLY ENTERED ...
YES, BUT... I ALMOST WONDER IF THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING FROM THIS WORLD...
IT'S SO BIG... IT MUST BE 100 METERS ACROSS ...
AND THE PART LIT UP LIKE A PAPER LANTERN MUST BE 30 METERS HIGH.
AND BESIDES THAT, DOESN'T IT SEEM THAT IT SOMETIMES APPEARS QUITE BRIGHT, AND OTHER TIMES DIMMER?
AND THE TENT ITSELF SEEMS TO ALWAYS BE SWELLING AS WITH SOME GREAT VOICE COMING FROM WITHIN...
IT'S IRONIC, GIVEN THAT THE ALTOMATA ARE NOT ORGANIC BEINGS, BUT...

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Act 6
Fanfare
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THAT TENT IS ALIVE!
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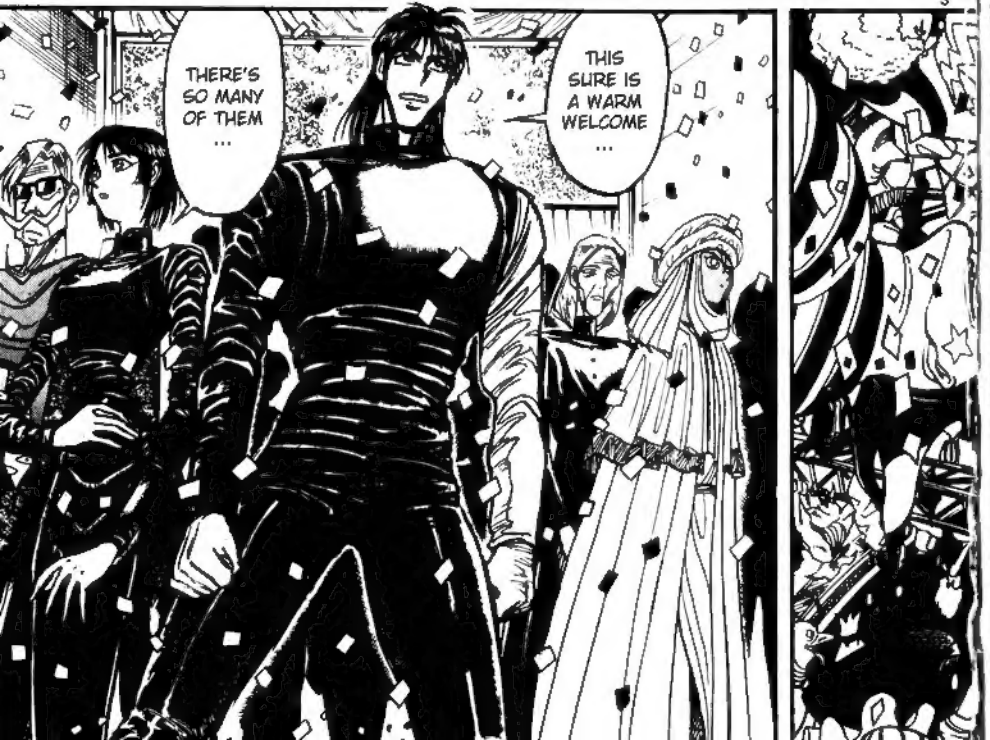
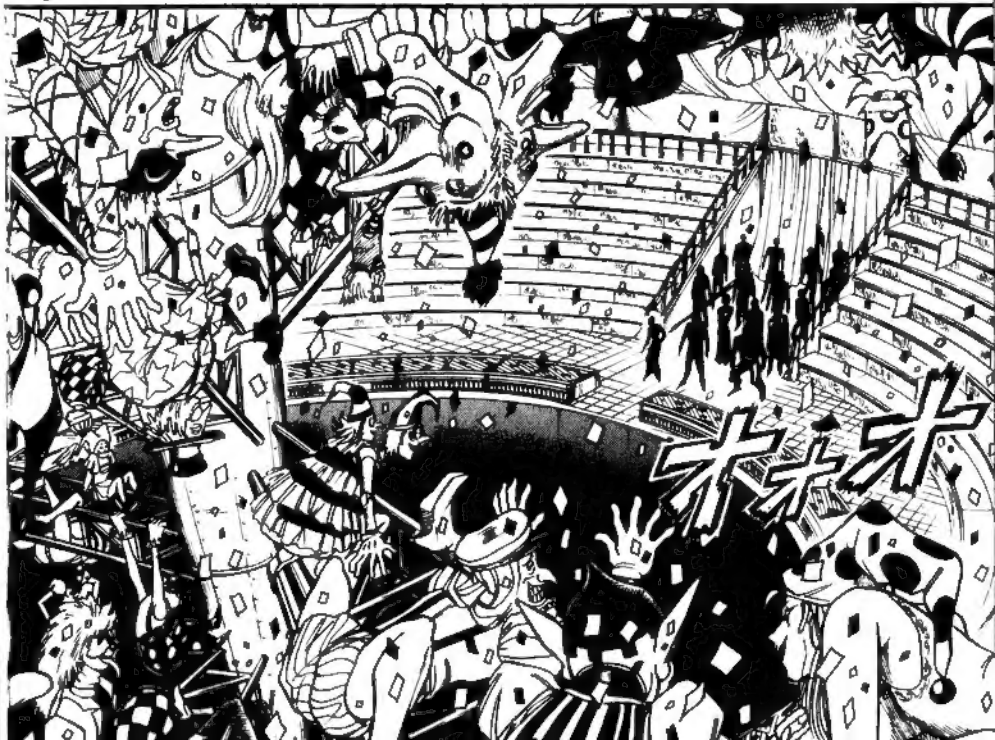

THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM ...
THIS SURE IS A WARM WELCOME ...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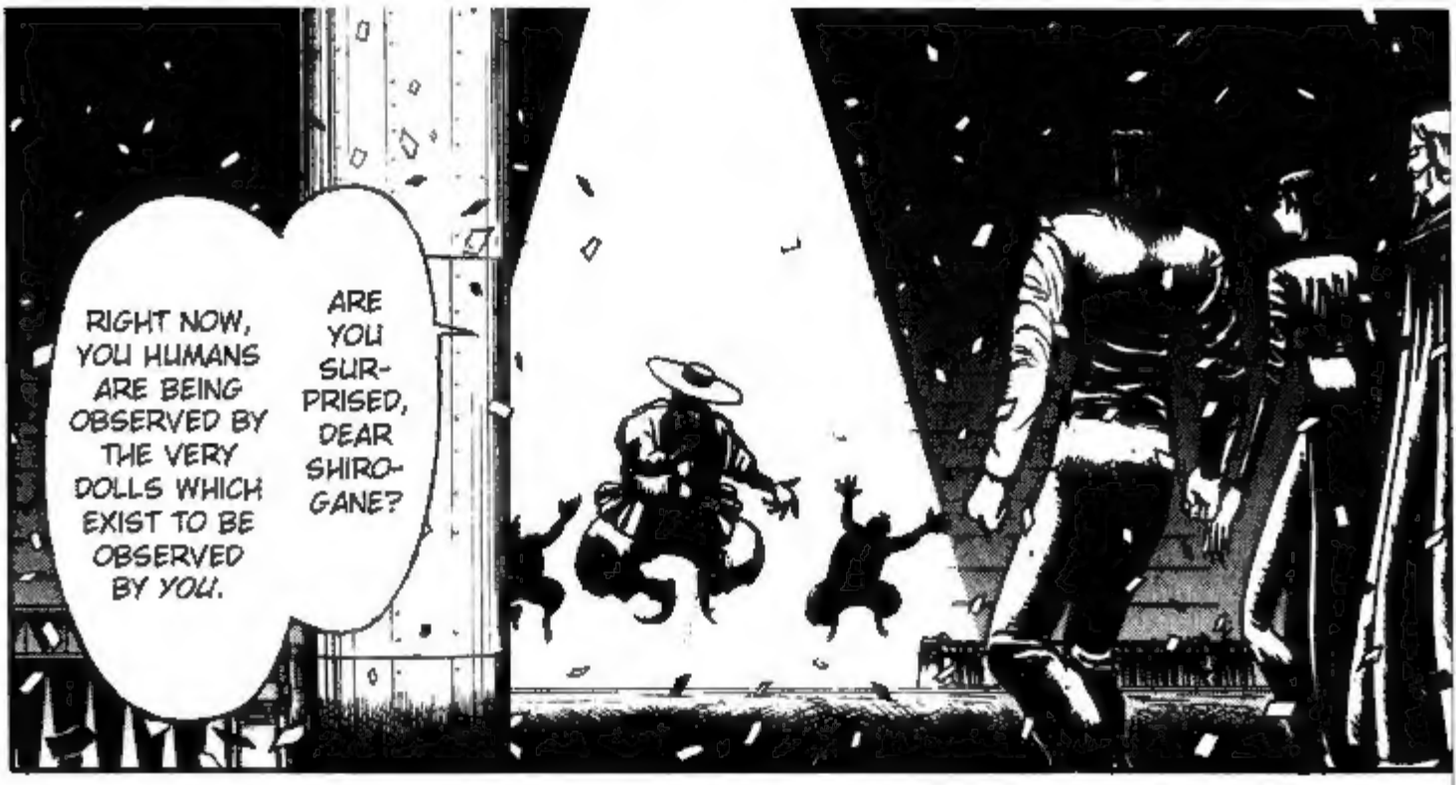
ARE YOU SURPRISED, DEAR SHIROGANE?
RIGHT NOW, YOU HUMANS ARE BEING OBSERVED BY THE VERY DOLLS WHICH EXIST TO BE OBSERVED BY YOU.

DOLLS DO NOT MOVE... THEY THINK NOTHING, AND THEY DESIRE... NOTHING.
MAIS NON, MAIS NON.
.....

DOTTORE ...

4

THAT SENSE YOU HUMANS HAVE WHEN YOU SAY, "YUMMY!" ...I WONDER JUST WHAT IT IS.
HMM... AND YET I FEEL NOTHING, AFTER ALL.
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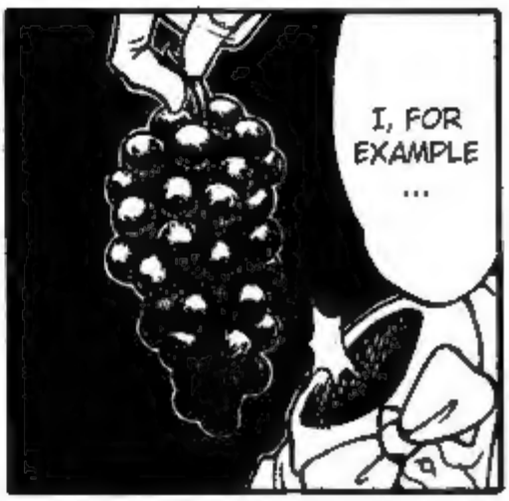
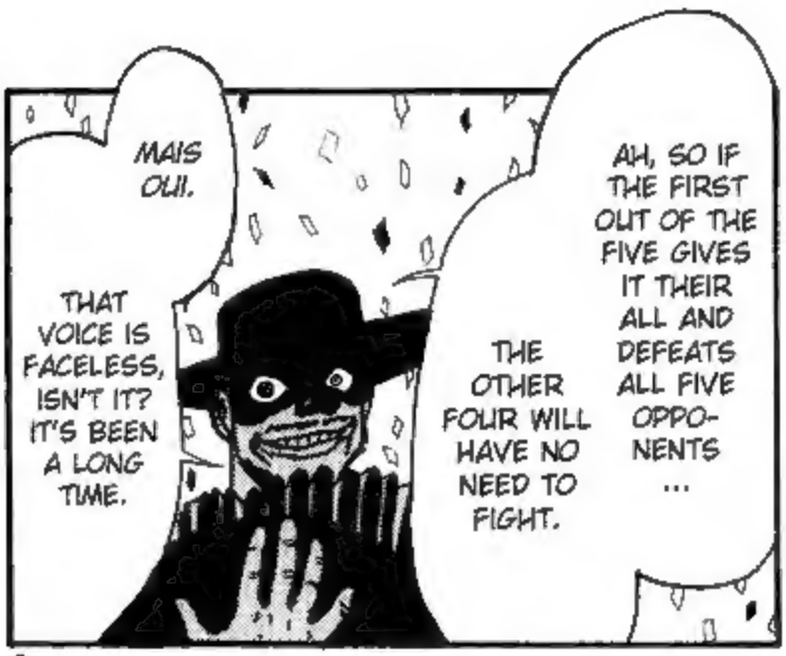

I, FOR EXAMPLE ...

HAVE TAKEN AN ENDURING INTEREST IN THE THING HUMANS CALL TASTE ...

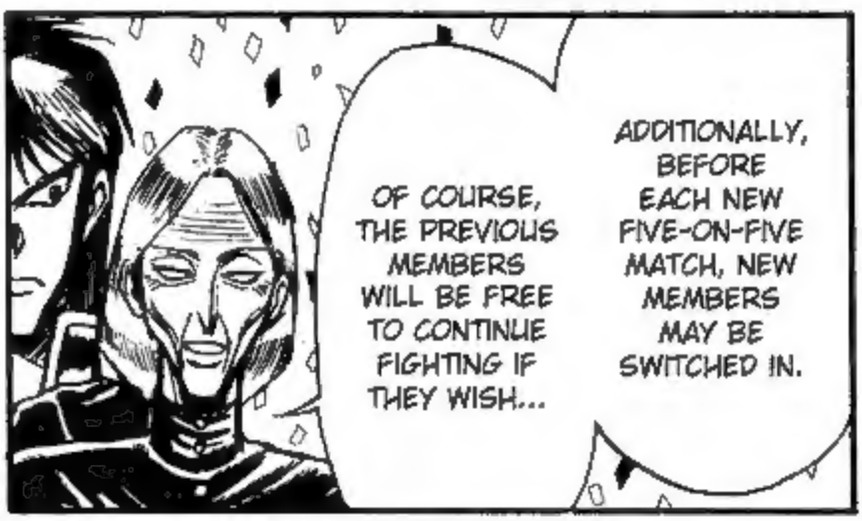
I PRESENT MYSELF TO YOU AS THE HUMBLE FACILITATOR OF THIS GAME.
AND SO WE BID YOU WELCOME TO THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS.
WH-WHAT IS UP WITH THIS GUY ...?
THE SORT OF DESIRE THAT WE AUTOMATA HAVE.
THAT IS...
A WONDERFUL GAME IS EXACTLY WHAT WE MOST DESIRE.
AND NOW, YOU HAVE COME HERE TO PROPOSE A GAME.

I DO HOPE YOU WILL MAKE IT ENTERTAINING FOR US.
THE BATTLE BETWEEN HUMAN AND DOLL IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...


MAIS OUI.
THAT VOICE IS FACELESS, ISN'T IT? IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
AH, SO IF THE FIRST OUT OF THE FIVE GIVES IT THEIR ALL AND DEFEATS ALL FIVE OPPONENTS ...
THE OTHER FOUR WILL HAVE NO NEED TO FIGHT.

ALL RIGHT. NOW THEN, WE'LL HAVE 20 OF YOUR DOLLS AND 20 OF OUR SHIRO-GANE.
IT WON'T BE ANY FUN IN ONE BIG JUMBLE, SO WHY DON'T WE DIVIDE IT INTO GROUPS OF FIVE ON FIVE?

I GET IT. THAT WAY WE MAY BE ABLE TO PLAY FOR TIME...


OF COURSE, THE PREVIOUS MEMBERS WILL BE FREE TO CONTINUE FIGHTING IF THEY WISH...
ADDITIONALLY, BEFORE EACH NEW FIVE-ON-FIVE MATCH, NEW MEMBERS MAY BE SWITCHED IN.

TELL ME, IS YOUR SON WELL?

OUR MISSION IS TO KEEP THEM HERE UNTIL MIDNIGHT TOMORROW.

OH, IS THAT YOU, LUCILLE? HOW DELIGHTFUL IT IS TO SEE THE FACE OF AN OLD FRIEND.

YES, DOTTORE ...
I BELIEVE HE IS LIVING HAPPILY WITH MY DAUGHTER.

GOD DAMN YOU, HOW DARE YOU ...!
YOU ...!

NOW, AS TO THE GAME'S PRIZE ...
KUKU ... THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

... LUCILLE.

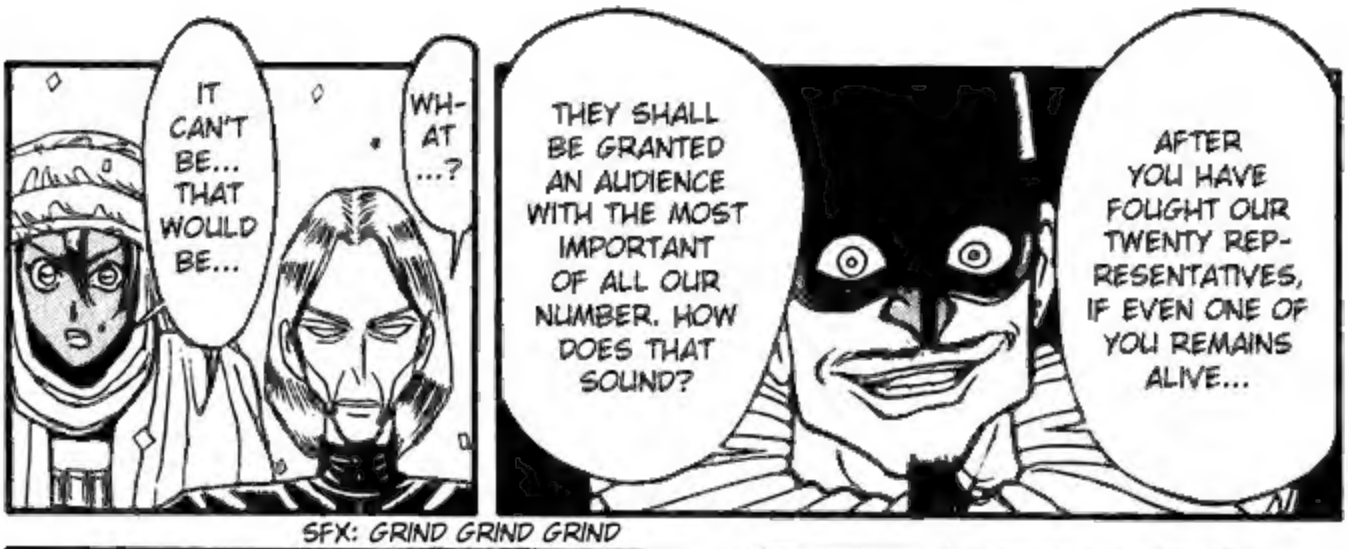
7

I SAID IT A MOMENT AGO, BUT WE DOLLS CONSIDER THE GAME ITSELF TO BE THE PRIZE. MOREOVER, IF WE WIN, YOU SHIROGANE WILL VANISH FROM THE EARTH.
NO, NO, THAT'S A LINE FROM OUR SIDE OF THE SCRIPT.

WE NEED NO PRIZE FOR PLAYING THIS GAME.
IT IS OUR MISSION TO DESTROY YOU.

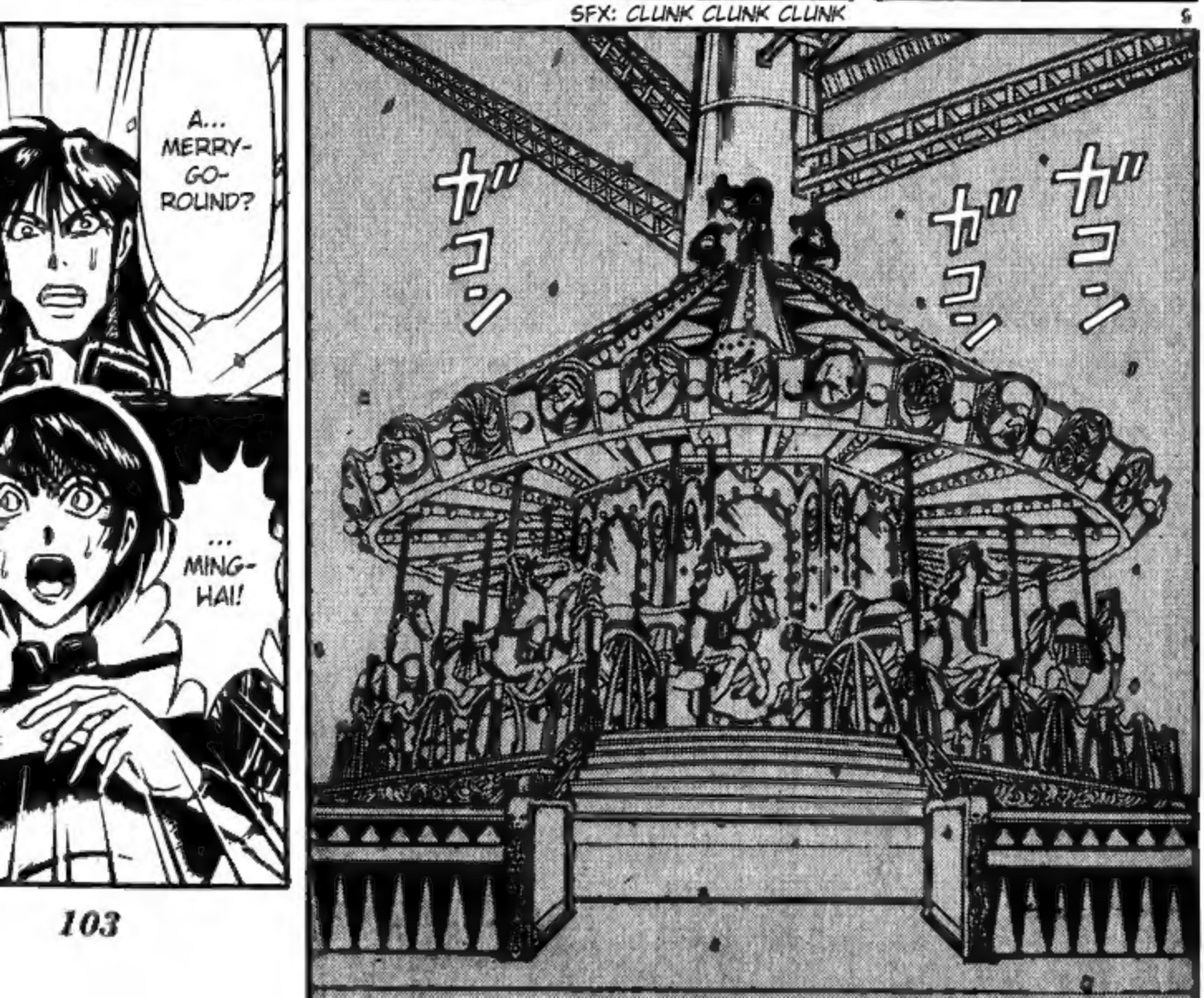
ALL THAT REMAINS FOR YOU IS DEATH, NO?
IF YOU SHIROGANE MANAGE TO WIN THIS GAME...
ON THE OTH-ER HAND ...
MEANING THAT HENCEFORTH, WE AUTOMATA WILL BE ABLE TO MULTIPLY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD UNCHECKED.
THAT YOU WILL AT LAST BE ABLE TO DIE HAPPILY. ISN'T THAT SO?
WE KNOW VERY WELL THAT IF YOU ARE ABLE TO CARRY OUT YOUR REVENGE AGAINST THE AUTOMATA, THAT SIMPLY MEANS ...
!

AND SO WE HAVE PREPARED A TRULY SPLENDID PRIZE.
THAT SOUNDS FAR TOO CRUEL, DOESN'T IT?
..... YEAH.
IS... IS THAT HOW IT IS, MING-HAI...?
HOW... COULD HUMAN BEINGS ...


IT CAN'T BE... THAT WOULD BE...
WH-AT ...?
THEY SHALL BE GRANTED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL OUR NUMBER. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
AFTER YOU HAVE FOUGHT OUR TWENTY REP-RESENTATIVES, IF EVEN ONE OF YOU REMAINS ALIVE...

SFX: GRIND GRIND GRIND

SFX: CLUNK CLUNK CLUNK



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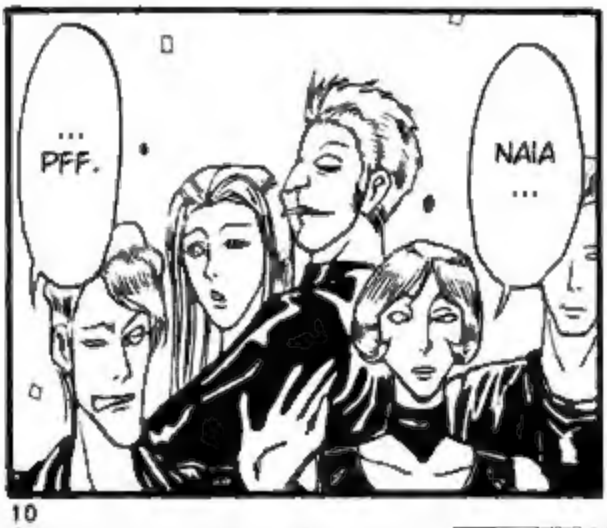
...
PFF.
NAIA
...

WHAT I WISH TO SHOW YOU IS NOT DOWN THERE ...
PLEASE DO NOT BE SO HASTY.

THAT'S RIGHT! HOW DARE YOU TREAT DEAD HUMANS LIKE TOYS ?!
I CURSE YOU FOUL CREA-TURES IN THE NAME OF MY FATHER!
HEY, YOU! IS THIS KIND OF SICK JOKE YOUR IDEA OF A PRIZE ?!

BUT ABOVE.
THAT ... IS...
AH ...
ABOVE ...?
THAT ... MUST BE...!!
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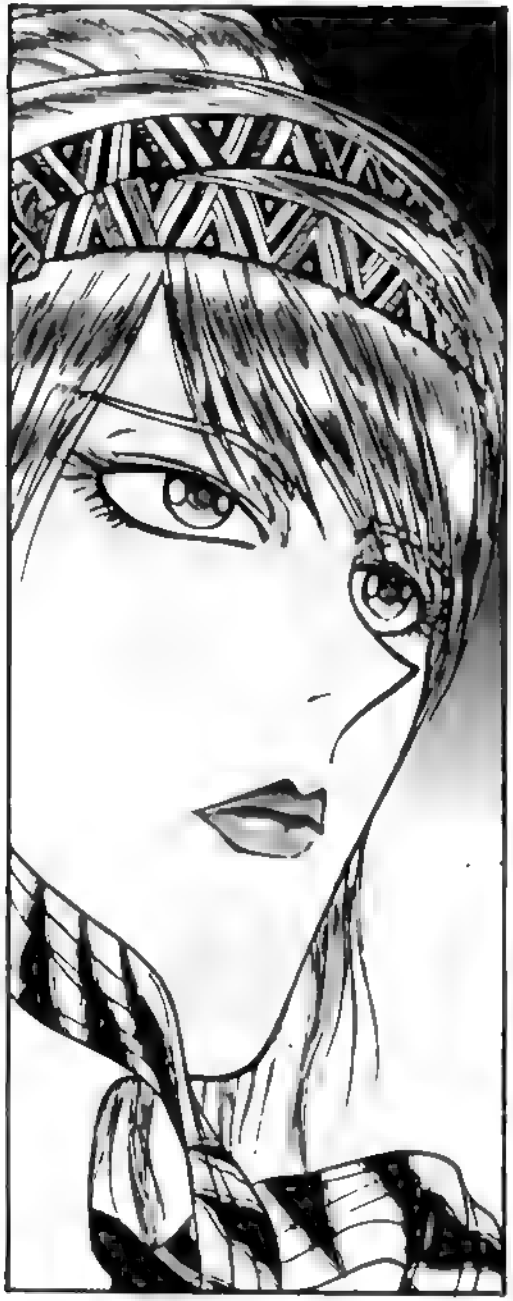
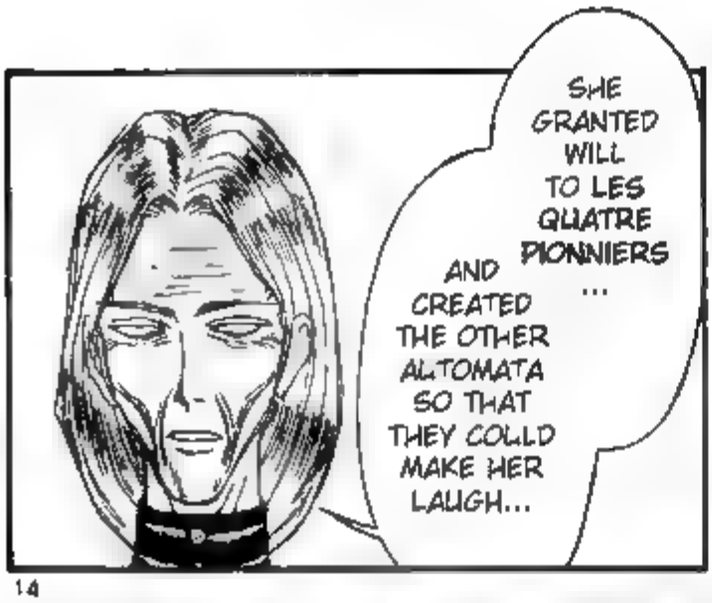
カコーン

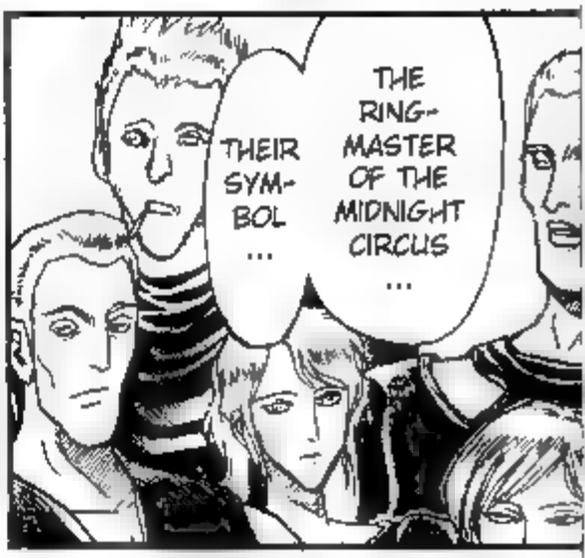


THE DOLL
FRANCINE!!


SHE GRANTED WILL TO LES QUATRE PIONNIERS ...
AND CREATED THE OTHER ALTOMATA SO THAT THEY COULD MAKE HER LAUGH...

THAT'S ...
THE VERY FIRST OF THE ALTOMATA TO BE BUILT ...

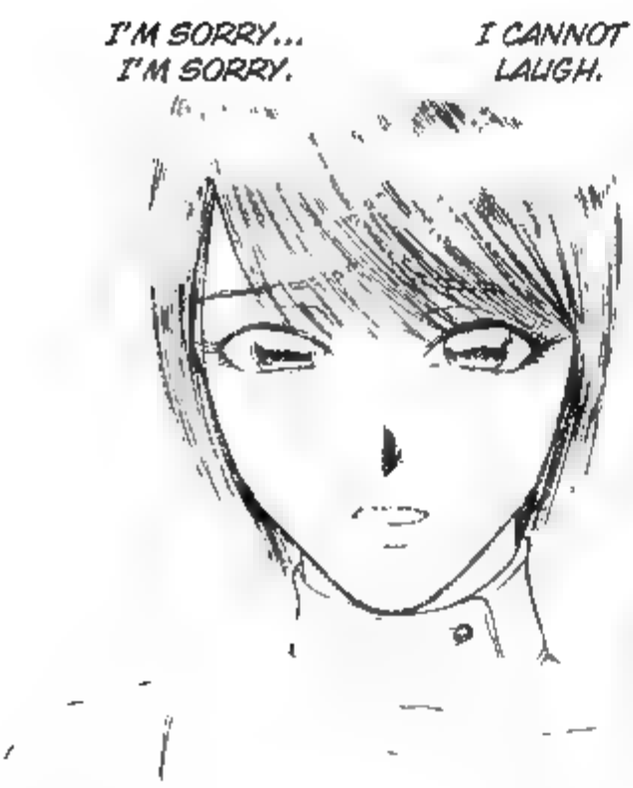
THE... DOLL FRANCINE.


THEIR SYM-BOL ...
THE RING-MASTER OF THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS ...

!

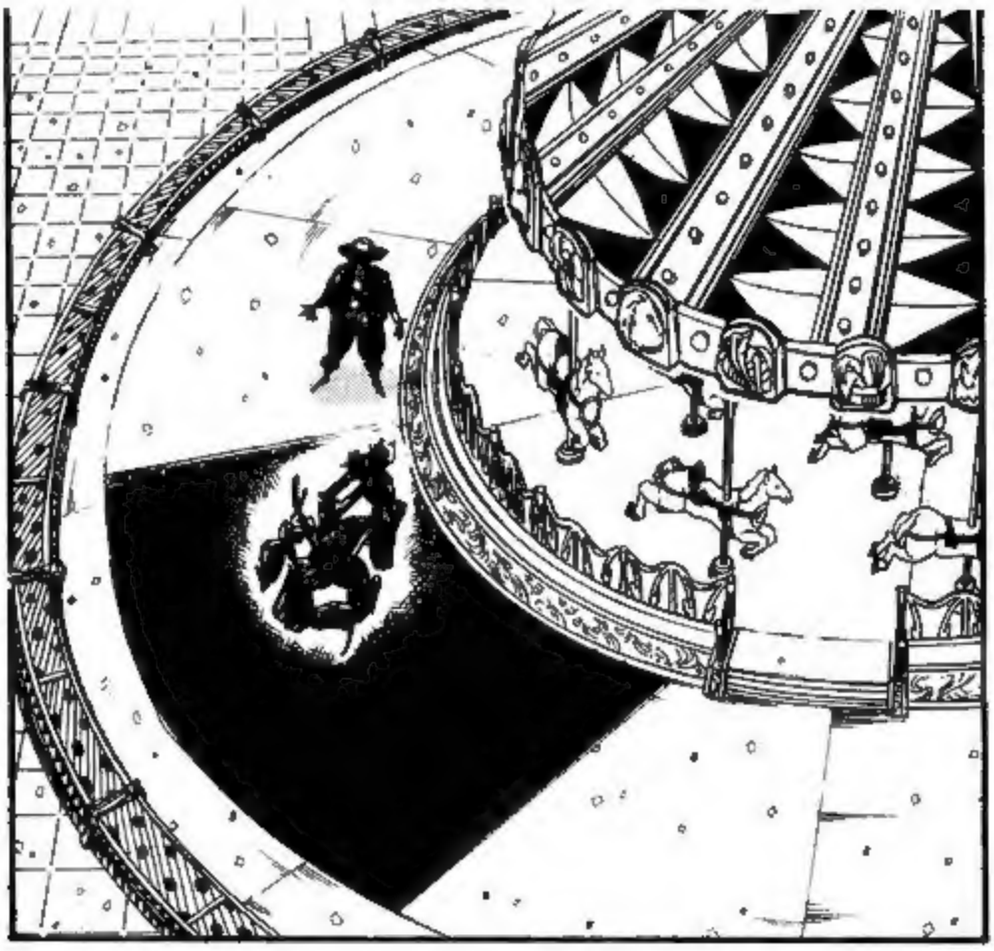
AH ...

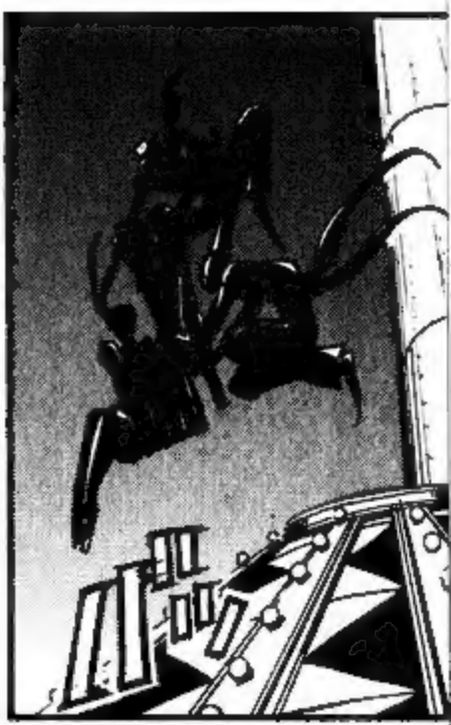
THE HUMAN FRANCINE I SAW AS BAI YIN...
SHE REALLY IS JUST LIKE...

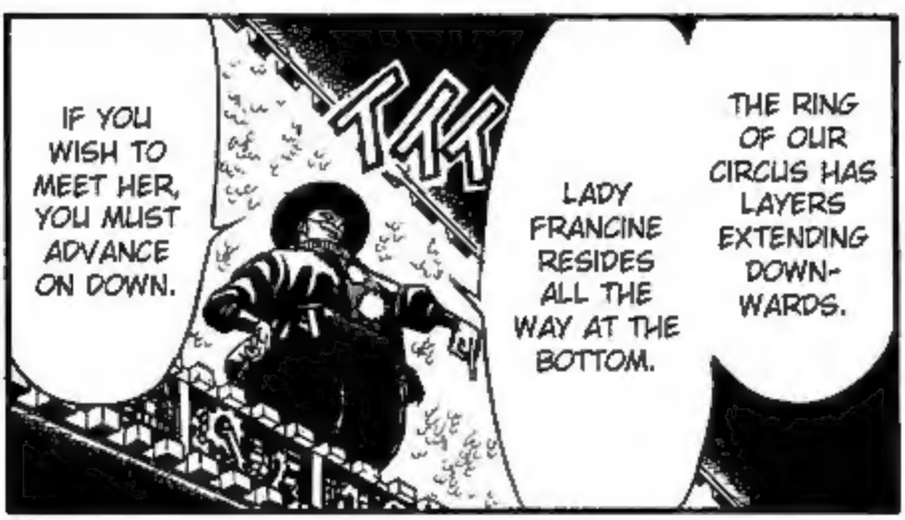

I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY.
I CANNOT LAUGH.

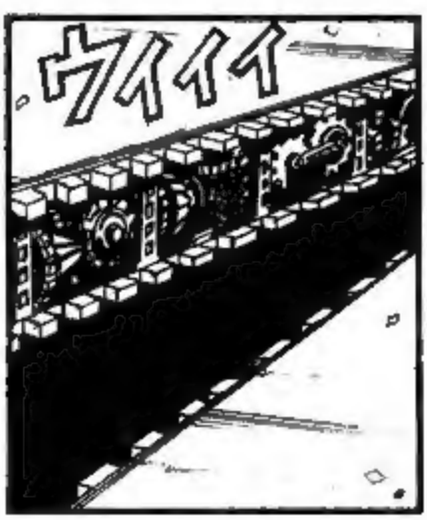
I DON'T KNOW WHERE, OR WHEN ... BUT I REALLY DID MEET THIS WOMAN!!
THAT'S RIGHT... WHEN I SAW THAT PORTRAIT OF THE DOLL FRANCINE, IT WAS LIKE THIS TOO ...
IF YOU WIN, YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO APPROACH OUR LADY AND EXCHANGE WORDS WITH HER.
HOW DOES THAT SOUND? QUITE INSPIRING, ISN'T IT?

BUT WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU! I'M COLUMBINE!
I AM ARLECCHINO. CONSIDER THIS YOUR GREETING FROM LES QUATRE PIONNIERS.
HOW-EVER, I AM PANTA-LONE.
WELL, SUCH AN EVENT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY ...






IF YOU WISH TO MEET HER, YOU MUST ADVANCE ON DOWN.
LADY FRANCINE RESIDES ALL THE WAY AT THE BOTTOM.
THE RING OF OUR CIRCUS HAS LAYERS EXTENDING DOWN-WARDS.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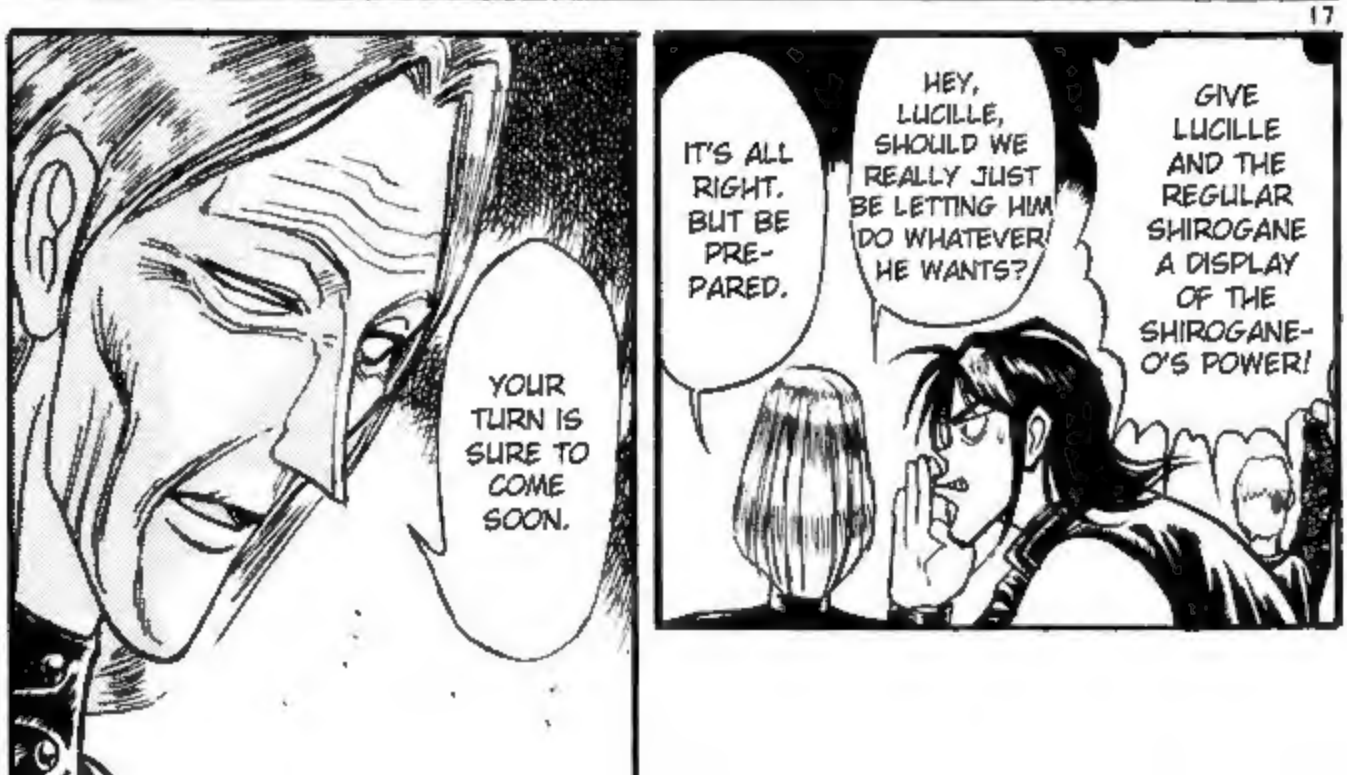
16

WE HAVE ALREADY DECIDED ON OURS.
NOW THEN, PLEASE BRING FORTH YOUR FIRST FIVE FIGHTERS.

IT SEEMS THE AUTOMATA HAVE A STRATEGY OF THEIR OWN...
SO THERE'S NO WAY FOR THE SHIROGANE OUTSIDE TO REACH HER...?

IF SOMEONE WINS AND MEETS THE DOLL FRANCINE, THEY CAN TAKE IT DOWN THEN AND THERE.
WHY DON'T WE PLAY OUR BEST HAND FIRST.
HEY, HEY, LUCILLE.
THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME OR PLACE FOR BASELESS POSTURING, IS IT?
IN THAT CASE ...
ROGER, COM-MANDER FACELESS!
FINISH IT FAST.
SHIRO-GANE-O!
GINA, MELISSA, SCHU-MACHER, ZED, HARDY!


YOUR TURN IS SURE TO COME SOON.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. BUT BE PRE-PARED.
HEY, LUCILLE, SHOULD WE REALLY JUST BE LETTING HIM DO WHATEVER HE WANTS?
GIVE LUCILLE AND THE REGULAR SHIROGANE A DISPLAY OF THE SHIROGANE-O'S POWER!

ガシャン
START IT UP, IF YOU PLEASE!
イイイイン
NOOOW THEN!
16
THE FAN-FARE !!
パパパパパパパパパパパパ

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

pg 15: The word Dottore uses for speaking with the doll Francine is *okotoba* (御言葉), a more polite version of *kotoba* which can be used to refer specifically to the word of God.

The fighting starts next week, I promise.

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.